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ELT

Dear Joshua:

Your thoughtful letter of Feb. 7th is a cherished addition to the memorable collection presented to me last June. I sincerely appreciate your reservations about writing at that time, and regret the troublesome period, that bureaucratic procedures and hassles now often impose on those whose research is innovative and needed.

My last full year at NIH was not spent reunning the Genetics Study Section, but still in the Division of Research Grants as Asst. Chie' for Review of the Basic Biomed Sciences group of Study Sections (22).

Working with these Exec. Secs in this capacity convinced me that there are still many understanding and caring people in these positions. All are working under unbelievable pressures of time, unrealistic work loads, grossly inadequate work space

and bureaucratic constraints. This has led to much discouragement among the professional staff and consultants as well.

I fear the quality of review at NIH may be in serious trouble and will continue to erode despite heroic efforts on the part of many dedicated people.

Our last contact was when you testified at the Grants Peer Review Study Team hearings in S.F. It is disappointing that practically none of the most urgent recommendations of the Report have been implemented.

My retirement, however, is not related to the present distressing situation. In fact I almost feel like a "cop out" for leaving during these troubled times. The home we bought at Palm Desert Country Club was simply too inviting, and George had retired three years ago -- waiting for me to leave the Washington scene.

I feel fortunate to have had the joy and satisfaction of being a part of NIH during probably its brightest years and contributing to the review process during an exciting era in genetics.

Lederberg P.3.

Much of this success could not have come about without the help and commitment of those of you who served on the Study section.

There are now two sections for Genetics review. Each will be headed by a competent geneticist as Exec. Sec.; both are fine individuals capable of carrying on the tradition with skill and understanding. So far only one of them, David Remondini, has been officially appointed. He is carrying both sections and is a responsible contact for dealing with any problems in the future. You wrote me your concern about the nature of the split when it was being considered a number of years ago. We have asked permission from H.E.W. to enlarge to 35 consultants (total) in Gen. with the idea of flexibility between the two groups and considerable overlap in expertise.

The announcement of your election to the presidency of Rockefeller escaped us as we were driving to California at the time. Congratulations and our

very best wishes as you undertake this important new challenge. This writer the drawbacks of living in the East have been obvious, but there are surely many more important considerations to lure you back to the "big apple" in this prestigious capacity.

I do not know the John Moores personally but we expect to enjoy the desert with old and new-found friends in the area. Please let us know if you have a chance to "sample the environs again" before moving East. At this point at least our patio is fully furnished and equipped for entertaining. Furthermore our view of the Santa Rosa Mts with green fairways in the foreground is magnificent.

With regard to your expanded memoir for Ed for the N.A.S., it was largely the foresight and effort of Edmund Siniatt, then chairman of the Dept of Plant Science at Yale that brought

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Tatum to Yale originally. The merger of the Dept's of Plant Science and Zoology took place considerably after Tatum had returned to Stanford. During Sinnott's chairmanship Yale's Dept. of Plant Science, as it was officially known, was considered the leading one in the U.S., notable for its breadth of staff interests and emphasis on plant biochemistry and microbial genetics. This was quite untraditional in comparison to other leading Botany Departments. For example at one time the faculty included Tatum, Bonner, Burkholder, Galston, Giles, Cutter, Reeder, Castle, Boyce (forestry) etc.

Again, Every good wish in your new venture.

Sincerely,

Kay